

REMARKS

The only issue outstanding in the office action mailed July 18, 2006, is the objection to the claims. Reconsideration of the objection, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the examiner is thanked for indicating that all prior rejections have been withdrawn and that claims 2-9 and 14 are allowed.

The examiner's careful reading of the claims appreciated. The following paragraphs refer to the issues raised at pages 2 and 3 of the office action.

- A. Dots have been placed in appropriate places in the formulae, as requested.
- B. In claim 1, line 8, the language has been clarified to indicate that A is an element "of" group VIII, rather than using the word "selected" as suggested in the office action, in order to avoid confusion concerning the scope of the Markush language.
- C. In claim 1, line 9, the word "of" has also been used in place of "from." Moreover, a typographical error in this claim has been corrected, so that it now reads "1 or 2 elements." Support for the correction of the typographical error can be found from the previous version of claim 1.
- D. The words "in which" have been replaced by *wherein*, as requested.
- E. In claim 1, lines 11-12, "which" has been deleted.
- F. In claim 1, line 12, "between 0 and 15" has been changed to *from* 0 to 15.
- H and I. In claim 10, the office action requests that the phrase "In a catalytic process" be changed to "A catalytic process." Moreover, in item I, it is requested that the phrase "The improvement wherein the catalyst is one" be deleted. However, the claim is a proper Jepson claim, as permitted in accordance with M.P.E.P. §608.01(m) and 37 C.F.R. §1.75(e). It is thus not seen that any change is needed. Since applicants are permitted to use any language of their choice which is definite, and applicants prefer to have claim 10 remain a Jepson claim, it is submitted that no amendment is necessary.

J. The word "catalytic" has been inserted as requested.

K and L. As with claim 10, this claim is a Jepson claim and it is not seen that any change is needed.

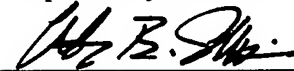
M and N. The requested typographical changes have been made.

Finally, claim 12 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a duplicate of claim 10. In fact, as respectfully urged that this is not the case. Claim 10 is directed to a catalytic process which comprises hydrotreating and/or hydroconverting of a hydrocarbon feed. Claim 12 is somewhat narrower, being directed to a process comprising hydrocracking of a hydrocarbon feed. Accordingly, it is submitted that difference in scope means that the claims fully satisfy the requirements of the statute.

In conclusion, it is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance, and the same is respectfully requested. However, if the examiner has any questions or comments, he or she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: PET-2095

Date: October 18, 2006

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